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DEFINITION OF DRUNKENNESS.

Editor Virginia Law Register :

I noticed in the REGISTER of November last, a discussion of the "judicial definition of drunkenness." The main difficulty seemed to be in getting a definition that would cover every phase of the case. As was said by Judge Dewey, of Boston, "there is a great difference in men when they have used such liquor. One man's mind will be clear and his legs unmanageable."

I have seen stated, I do not now recall where, what is said to be the true common-law definition of drunkenness, which is as follows:

"Not drunk is he, who from the floor
Can rise again and drink once more,
But drunk is he, who prostrate lies,
And cannot either drink or rise."

This definition seems to cover the case. If he can neither "drink nor rise," both head and legs must be drunk. The condition of drunkenness according to this definition is susceptible of easy proof, and closes the door to speculation by court or jury.

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